

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please insert the following paragraph before the first sentence of the application at page 1, line 1:

This application claims the benefit of International Application No. PCT/EP2003/013162 filed on November 24, 2003 under 35 U.S.C. §371, entitled, "Method and Plant for the Thermal Treatment of Granular Solids in a Fluidized Bed" which claims the benefit of German Patent Application No. 102 60 742.7 filed on December 23, 2002.